

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A control method for selecting valve actuating modes in a multi-valve engine having at least an electromechanically actuated valve, the method comprising:

determining an operating condition of said electromechanically actuated valve; and

operating the engine in at least a first and second cylinder configuration when said operating condition indicates acceptable performance of said electromechanical valve, said first configuration including engine operation where at least said valve operates and said second configuration including engine operation where at least said valve is deactivated; and

~~deactivating restricting operation in cylinder modes wherein said electromechanically actuated valve operates~~ said first configuration and operating the engine at least in said second configuration , ~~said deactivation occurring~~ when said operating condition indicates a condition of degraded performance of said electromechanical valve.

23. (original) The method of Claim 22 wherein said operating condition is a temperature of said electromechanical valve actuator.

24. (original) The method of Claim 22 wherein said operating condition is an amount of electrical current flowing through said electromechanical valve.

25. (original) The method of Claim 22 wherein said operating condition is a voltage drop across said electromechanical valve.

26. (original) The method of Claim 22 wherein said operating condition is a position of said electromechanical valve.

27. (original) The method of Claim 22 wherein said operating condition is an impedance of said electromechanical valve.

28-34. (cancelled)

35. (new) A control method for selecting valve actuating modes in a multi-valve engine having at least an electromechanically actuated valve, the method comprising:

determining an operating condition of said electromechanically actuated valve; and

operating the engine in at least a first and second cylinder mode when said operating condition indicates acceptable performance of said electromechanical valve, said first mode including engine operation where at least said valve operates and said second mode including engine operation where at least said valve is deactivated; and

continuing operation of the engine in said second mode when said operating condition indicates a condition of degraded performance of said electromechanical valve.

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36. (new) The method of Claim 35 wherein said operating condition is a temperature of said electromechanical valve actuator.

37. (new) The method of Claim 35 wherein said operating condition is an amount of electrical current flowing through said electromechanical valve.

38. (new) The method of Claim 35 wherein said operating condition is a voltage drop across said electromechanical valve.

39. (new) The method of Claim 35 wherein said operating condition is a position of said electromechanical valve.

40. (new) The method of Claim 35 wherein said operating condition is an impedance of said electromechanical valve.

41. (new) A control method for selecting valve actuating modes in a multi-valve engine having at least and electrically actuated valve, the method comprising:

determining and operating condition of said electrically actuated valve;

operating the engine in a first and second cylinder configuration when said operating condition indicates acceptable performance of said electrically actuated valve, said first configuration including operating the engine with a first number of operating cylinders, and said second mode including a second number of operating cylinders, said second number of cylinders less than said first number of cylinders, said electrically actuated valve operating in said first

mode, said electrically actuated valve scheduled to be operating or deactivated in said second mode; and

continuing operation of the engine in said second mode when said operating condition indicates a condition of degraded performance of said electromechanical valve.

42. (new) The method of Claim 41 wherein said operating condition is a temperature of said electromechanical valve actuator.

43. (new) The method of Claim 41 wherein said operating condition is an amount of electrical current flowing through said electromechanical valve.

44. (new) The method of Claim 41 wherein said operating condition is a voltage drop across said electromechanical valve.

45. (new) The method of Claim 41 wherein said operating condition is a position of said electromechanical valve.

46. (new) The method of Claim 41 wherein said operating condition is an impedance of said electromechanical valve.

47. (new) The method of Claim 41 wherein said operating condition is an impedance of said electromechanical valve.

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